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SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIAN INDUSTRIAL CENTERS -- Rome, Il Giornale d'Italia,  
11 Sep 53

During the second half of June 1953, the workers of the tobacco factories at Plovdiv and Khaskovo revolted on account of unemployment caused by lack of raw material. Demonstrations took place in the squares and workers carried signs on which was written: "It is time to end this government which does not provide work."

On 23 June, a revolt took place at the "Vasil Kolarov" Factory at Plovdiv. The director was beaten by a group of workers, after being dragged from his private car, which the workers then set afire. However, he was saved from lynching by the intervention of the militia.

Later in June, the soap factory workers at Pleven rioted in protest against wage reductions and food shortages. After demolishing everything in sight, the workers set fire to the factory, which was completely destroyed.

During the middle of June, an explosion seriously damaged the Soviet-controlled chemical factories at Tichilov and Kostinbrod. At that time, workers rioted against the factory police; two policemen were killed and there were numerous injuries on both sides. Demonstrations by the inhabitants of the area were also held in front of factories as a protest against Soviet control and a government which runs its industry by starving the workers. Local newspapers were ordered to ignore the event, and the following day the official party report stated that Western capitalists' provocateurs were sabotaging the factories in order to lower production and create new work restrictions.

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During the last week of June, the administration building of the Eliseyna Copper Mines was set on fire. Many machines were completely destroyed and others damaged. The mine is now closed. The revolt was caused by the government's refusal to rescind the order providing for very meager bread rations.

At the beginning of July, work was suspended in the explosives plant at Kazanluk because of continuous revolts by the workers. Members of the militia are now stationed in all the buildings.

Acts of sabotage also continue in the airplane factories located in Kazanluk. Large mills at Yambol, Burgas, and Plovdiv have been completely destroyed by fire.

POMAKS CAUSE DISTURBANCES IN BULGARIA -- Salonica, Nea Alitheia, 18 Sep 53

It is reported that Pomaks [Bulgarian-speaking Moslems] living in Bulgaria recently caused disturbances and beat up Communist officials who wanted to photograph Pomak women without their veils. The photographs were to be put with their identity cards.

SABOTAGE IN CZECH COAL MINES CALLS FOR PRESENCE OF SOLDIERS -- Rome, 11 Giornale d'Italia, 15 Sep 53

The discontent among the Czech coal miners caused by the food shortage has had serious effects on the coal industry. Antonin Zapotocky, President of the People's Republic of Czechoslovakia, announced yesterday in a speech to the Army at Moravska Ostrava that the government would have to depend on the presence of the soldiers in the mines to fulfill the coal production goals. Only the presence of the Army will keep sabotage under control and prevent the present threat of complete failure in the mines. According to carefully gathered information, soldiers are actually being substituted for the workers.

Dispatches from Prague also note that, as a means of solving the manpower shortage caused by escapees, police have been stationed along the frontiers. Anyone who turns in citizens trying to escape will receive a reward of 1,000 crowns.

PEASANT RESISTANCE IN THE GDR -- Berlin, Berliner Morgenpost, 16 Sep 53

Berlin, 16 September (DPA) -- Peasant resistance in the GDR is increasing. In Thuringia and Brandenburg, the peasants are now refusing to turn over to the authorities their assigned quota of the harvest. Several provincial newspapers of the SED have mentioned "serious manifestations in the country," where the peasants have been "misled by provocateurs." The papers even state that government harvest collection officials have advised the peasants to deliver no food or only part of their quota to the authorities.

FIRE IN EAST GERMAN COMBINE -- Berlin, Tagesspiegel, 27 Sep 53

Berlin (DPA) -- According to a report by Informationsbüro West, bunker No 2 of the West Metallurgical Combine at Calbe/Saale in the GDR was completely destroyed by fire on 23 September. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined. The plant management estimates the damage at more than one million Deutsche marks (East).

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ODOR A THREAT TO RUMANIAN MINISTER'S RECEPTION -- Stockholm, Morgon-Tidningen,  
25 Aug 53

At 1700 hours on 24 August, a strong and choking odor in the stairway to the apartment at Strandvägen 7 C [Stockholm] threatened to disrupt the reception held by the Rumanian minister on the occasion of the Rumanian holiday celebrating "liberation from the Fascist yoke". The fire department's smoke ejector unit was used. Two oily patches, from which the odor originated, were found on the stairway, between the fifth and sixth floors (the minister's reception was held on the fifth floor).

The [Swedish] security police took over the situation from the regular police. It is not known whether the incident had any connection with the minister's reception, as there are several legations in the building, but the oily patches were nearer the Rumanian Legation. According to the fire chief, the patches gave off an odor like that of tear gas, causing the eyes to smart and water.

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